

Amendments To The Claims

The listing of claims presented below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (original) In a method for processing a short message in a mobile communication network including a mobile switching center for switching calls, a short message service center for providing a short message service, and an operation control unit for operating and managing the short message service center, a method for processing an address of a short message service center in a WCDMA network, comprising:

a load centralization confirmation step where the operation control unit receives short message processing states from each short message service center, confirms load centralization states of each short message service center, and generates an operation message;

a path setup step where the mobile switching center receives a short message from a mobile station, and sets up a transmission path of the short message according to the operation message; and

an optimal transmission step where the mobile switching center transmits the short message from the mobile station to the corresponding short message service center through the transmission path according to the result of the path setup step.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the load centralization confirmation

step comprises a step where the operation control unit

receives the short message processing states from each short message service center,

confirms a minimum load centralization short message service center according to real-time statistical data, and

transmits the operation message for requesting path setup variations to the mobile switching center,

so that the minimum load centralization short message service center can process newly-transmitted short messages.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein,

in the path setup step, the mobile switching center sets up the short message service center corresponding to address information included in the operation message from the operation control unit as a minimum load centralization short message service center to set up the transmission path of the short message, and

in the optimal transmission step, the mobile switching center transmits the short message from the mobile station to the minimum load centralization short message service center through the transmission path.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein,

in the load centralization confirmation step, the operation control unit decides the short message service center processing a relatively small number

of short messages as the minimum load centralization short message service center in the real time according to the short message processing states from each short message service center.